(c) Introduction of a train from Panvel to Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus has not been found operationally feasible.

Mobile telephone in running trains

3143. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce mobile telephone facility in the running trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to provide Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) between Driver and Guard of a running train Station Master, field maintenance staff and control office on category 'A', 'B' & 'C' routes, on Indian Railways. MTRC system would not only enhance safety in train operations but would also help maintenance staff along the railway track. Eight (8) Works for provision of MTRC on a total of 3200 Route Kilometres have already been sanctioned on 5 zonal railways *viz.* Eastern, East Central Northern, Northeast Frontier and North Central Railways for execution.

(c) Does not arise.

Increasing the quota of appointment on compassionate ground

†3144. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a suggestion to increase the quota of appointment on compassionate ground from maximum five per cent to maximum ten per cent out of the direct recruitment quota;

(b) if so, by when final decision would be taken in this regard; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay in taking decisions in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Paani Pandey

†3145. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees called "Paani Pandey" have been appointed since the British era in Indian Railways;

(b) whether it is also fact that the employees called "Paani Pandey" are appointed even now in the Indian Railways;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the term "Paani Pandey" is humiliating and indicative of feudalistic thinking;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for not using any respectful term instead of "Paani Pandey"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Memoranda received from railway employees unions

†3146. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Memoranda received by his Ministry and different divisional zonal offices of Railways from different railways' employees unions on different issues up till now, during the past three years;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to mitigate justified demands/problems mentioned in Memoranda/Applications of railways' employees unions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.